

REMARKS

Claims 2-15 are currently pending in the application. Claims 2-8 stand withdrawn from consideration as directed to non-elected inventions. Applicants cancel claim 1 and add claims 9-15 in this Amendment and Response. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Support for newly added claims 9-15 may be found in the specification as filed, *passim*, and specifically at pages 9-11.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) & 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,521,570 (Watanabe et al.) or Japanese Patent Nos. 63,99261 (Japanese '261) or 7-62216 (Japanese '216) or 2002-146319 (Japanese '319) or 61-115976 (Japanese '976). The Examiner purportedly finds in each of these references disclosure of a lactone-modified epoxy resin in combination with a melamine/isocyanuric acid adduct as recited in claim 1. The Examiner argues that the physical properties recited in claim 1 for the organic tack reducing component is inherent in the materials disclosed in these prior art references.

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's grounds for rejection of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is rendered moot by Applicants' cancellation of rejected claim 1. Applicants note, however, that none of the cited references teach an adhesive article comprising a heat curable adhesive and a stretchable backing layer as recited in new independent claim 9 and as required by each of newly added claims 10-15 which depend from claim 9. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and an acknowledgement that the subject matter of added claims 9-15 are patentable over these references.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner also rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over PCT Publication No. WO 02/23273 in view of Watanabe et al. and Japanese Patent no. 57-164116 (Japanese '116). The Examiner asserts that the PCT publication recites a combination of a modified epoxy resin and a melamine/isocyanuric acid adduct together with other components useful as a photosensitive composition. The Examiner relies on the two secondary references for

disclosure of the selection and benefit of caprolactone-modified epoxy resins and asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would select the epoxy resins of the secondary resins for use in the compositions disclosed in the PCT Publication.

The Examiner further rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent Nos. 2000-25155 (Japanese '155), 2000-226438 (Japanese '438) and the Cailliao Baohu article by Zhou et al. in view of Watanabe et al. and Japanese '116. The Examiner characterizes each of the three primary references as disclosing formulations containing epoxy resins and melamine cyanurate and relies on the cited secondary references as teaching the selection and substitution of a caprolactone-modified epoxy resin into the compositions of the primary references.

The Examiner still further rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe et al., Japanese '116 and Japanese Patent No. 60-186524 (Japanese '524) in view of Japanese '155 and '438 and Zhou et al. The Examiner asserts that each of these primary references disclose compositions obtained from ϵ -caprolactone-modified epoxy resins. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to add the melamine cyanurates disclosed in each of the secondary references to the compositions of the primary references for the benefits recited in the secondary references.

Again, without acquiescing to the Examiner's various additional grounds for rejecting claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections too are mooted by Applicants' cancellation of claim 1. Applicants note here also that none of the cited primary or secondary references teach an adhesive article comprising a heat curable adhesive and a stretchable backing layer as recited in new independent claim 9 and as required by each of newly added claims 10-15. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these additional rejections and an acknowledgement that the subject matter of added claims 9-15 are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the accompanying amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the various claim rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if doing so would facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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